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December 13, 2002

**REC EIVED**

DEC 13 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.  
Suite 110  
Washington, D.C. 2002

**Re: MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FOR FILING STATEMENTS  
RM-10613 - Request for Initiation of Proceeding Into Character of  
WorldCom, Inc. and Other Commission Licensees Filed by the Office  
of Communication of the United Church of Christ**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Transmitted herewith on behalf of the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, Inc. is an original and four (4) copies of its Motion for Extension of Time for Filing Statements in the above-referenced rulemaking proceeding.

Should any questions arise concerning this matter, please contact the undersigned directly.

Sincerely,

**WOMBLE CARLYLE SANDRIDGE & RICE**  
*A Professional Limited Liability Company*

Gregg P. Skall  
Counsel for the Office of Communication  
of the United Church of Christ

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Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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DEC 13 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Request for Initiation of Proceeding Into ) RM-10613  
Character of WorldCom, Inc. and )  
Other Commission Licensees )

To: Secretary, Federal Communications Commission

**Motion for Extension of Time for Filing Statements**

Pursuant to Section 1.46 of the Commission's rules, the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, Inc. (the "Movant") hereby respectfully requests that the Commission extend the deadline for filing statements in the above-captioned rulemaking proceeding until January 31, 2003.

On October 15, 2002, the Movant filed a Petition For Rulemaking and Request for Initiation of § 403 Proceeding Into Character of Worldcom, Inc. and Other Commission Licensees (the "Petition"). In response, the Commission released a public notice on December 5, 2002 advising that interested persons may file statements in opposition to, or in support of, the Petition within 30 days of the public notice, or by January 6, 2003.<sup>1</sup>

In order for interested persons to have sufficient time to review the Petition and submit substantive statements in opposition to, or in support of, the Petition, ~~an~~ extension of the deadline for filing statements concerning the Petition is necessary in light of the holiday season. For example, an extension of the statement filing deadline beyond the holiday season is **needed** in order for the Movant to properly prepare a statement in support of its Petition.

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<sup>1</sup> See FCC Public Notice Report No. 2585, released December 5, 2002.

The Movant is a subsidiary corporation of the United Church of Christ (“UCC”). **As** detailed in the Petition, the Movant was established by the UCC to advocate on behalf of the public interest in the areas of communications policy. UCC is a mainline Protestant denomination of 1.4 million members in more than 6,000 churches, 30 colleges and institutions of higher education, 15 seminaries and more than 340 health and human services centers in every state and in Puerto Rico. In addition to his duties as the Director of the Movant, Reverend Robert Chase also serves as the Minister and Team Leader of the UCC’s Proclamation, Identity and Communications Ministry Team. **As** such, the Reverend is, and will be, fully engaged in various holiday related activities throughout December and January.

**As** explained in the Petition, the Movant believes very strongly that the establishment of new standards of conduct for all telecommunications providers that receive authorizations to operate from the Commission is imperative. The facilities and services provided by today’s telecommunications providers is the central nervous system of our society, serving as the hub for virtually all commerce and public safety, and as a critical resource for our national defense. Once the holiday season is over, interested parties will be able to focus their attention to the matters raised in the Petition and prepare statements for submission to the Commission concerning an inquiry into the character qualifications of WorldCom, Inc. and other Commission licensees, and the establishment of specific business conduct standards applicable to all telecommunications providers that receive authorizations to operate from the Commission.

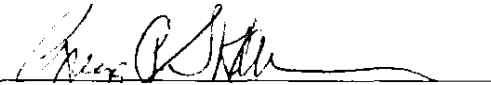
Finally, a grant of an extension of the deadline to file statements in this proceeding to January 31, 2003 will not prejudice any party because there is no critical immediate period of time in which the Commission must act on the Petition.

Accordingly, there is good cause for the Commission to extend the deadline for filing statements concerning the Petition to January 31, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION, INC.  
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

December 13, 2002

By:   
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202/857-4400  
Its Attorneys

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Dina Etemadi, a secretary in the law firm of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC,  
do hereby certify that true copies of the attached "Motion for Extension of Time for Filing  
Statements" were mailed this 13th day of December, 2002, postage prepaid, to the following:

Ann H. Stevens  
Wireline Competition Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals II – Room 5-C162  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Eugenie Barton  
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals II – Room 8-B458  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

David Strickland  
International Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals II – Room 5-C848  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554



Dina Etemadi